

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A production method of polyolefin foamed sheet, comprising the steps of:

bringing a polyolefin foamable raw sheet into contact with a close-contact medium;

heating the foamable raw sheet at a temperature not lower than a temperature permitting thermocompression-bonding to the close-contact medium and lower than a foam initiating temperature ~~to;~~

thermocompression-bonding the sheet to the close-contact medium, the thermocompression bonding of the foamable raw sheet occurring between a nip roller and the close contact medium, the surface temperature of the nip roller being controlled to be lower than the temperature of the close-contact medium; and

subsequently, heating to foam at least one of the surfaces of the foamable raw sheet at a temperature not lower than the foam initiating temperature while ~~compression-bonding~~ the foamable raw sheet to the close-contact medium, thereby obtaining the foamed sheet.

2. (Currently amended) The production method of polyolefin foamed sheet according to claim 1, wherein a device having an endless belt wound and rotated around a plurality of rollers including ~~heating~~ first and second heating rollers is used,

wherein the foamable raw sheet is brought into contact with the first roller through the endless belt which acts as the close-contact medium, and the foamable raw sheet is heated ~~thereon~~ by the first roller at the temperature not lower than a temperature permitting thermocompression-bonding to the endless belt and lower than a foam initiating temperature to thermocompression-bond the sheet to the endless belt by using the nip roller, and

wherein the foamable raw sheet is brought into contact with the second roller through the endless belt and the foamable raw

sheet is heated and foamed thereon at a temperature not lower than the foam initiating temperature to obtain the foamed sheet.

3. (Original) The production method of polyolefin foamed sheet according to claim 1, wherein, after the polyolefin foamable raw sheet is heated from a first surface of the foamable raw sheet while a heated surface is in close contact with the close-contact medium, the foamable raw sheet is heated from a second surface thereof to be foamed in heating and foaming the foamable raw sheet.

4. (Original) The production method of polyolefin foamed sheet according to claim 1, wherein, when the foamable raw sheet is heated and foamed, the foamable raw sheet is simultaneously heated to be foamed from both surfaces of the foamable raw sheet while a heated surface of the polyolefin foamable raw sheet is in close contact with the close-contact medium.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) The product method according to claim 1, wherein the nip roller applies a linear force across the foamable raw sheet to compression bond the raw sheet to the close-contact medium.